

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/849,996

Examiner

Jermie Cozart

Applicant(s)

WATKINS ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the election filed 4/26/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 6/21/04
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 19-23 in the reply filed on 4/26/07 is acknowledged.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the title,

"Core Element Fastening and Assembly Method" has been changed to
- -Apparatus for Fastening Sand Core Elements- -.

In the specification,

Page 1, *Paragraph [0001], Line 2,* - -now U.S. Patent No. 6865806- -
has been inserted after "August 1, 2002,".

Page 6, *Paragraph [0028], Lines 2 and 6,* "23a and 23b" has been
changed to - -22a and 22b- -;

In the claims,

Non-elected **Claims 15-18** have been canceled.

Claim 19, *Line 13,* "their terminal ends" has been changed to - -the
terminal ends of the lifting rods- -;

Line 21, "their retention" has been changed to - -the

retention of the core assemblies- -.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 19, the prior art does not teach or suggest a reciprocable lifting table located below the moving belt conveyor, the reciprocable lifting table having a plurality of lifting rods extending upwardly from the lifting table to terminal end locations just below and on each side of the moving belt conveyor, the plurality of lifting rods being sufficiently spaced apart on the reciprocable table to reliably engage the underside of casting core assemblies carried by the moving belt conveyor with the terminal ends of the lifting rods, a pressure-applying roof at the fastening position above the lifting table and moving belt conveyor, the pressure-applying roof including resilient means for engaging the upper sides of the core assemblies at the fastening position to assist in their retention at the fastening position, in combination with the other claimed limitations; Regarding claim 20, the prior art does not teach or suggest a plurality of carriers for carrying a plurality of staple guns between retracted positions and staple insertion positions adjacent the assembly of core elements at the fastening position for insertion of staples into the assembly of core elements, and a controller for operating the moveable stop, the proximity sensor, the lifting table, the plurality of carriers, and the plurality of carrier sensors to place the moveable stop in the path of the assembly of core elements on the moving belt conveyor, to operate the lifting table when the proximity sensor senses a stopped assembly of core elements, to operate the plurality of carriers when the lifting table has lifted the assembly of core elements to the fastening position, to operate the plurality of staple guns after the plurality of staple guns

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have arrived at their staple insertion positions, to operate the lifting table when staples from the plurality of staple guns have been inserted into the assembly of core elements and lower the stapled assembly of core elements onto the moving belt conveyor and to remove the moveable stop from the path of the fastened core assembly on the moving belt conveyor, and to place the moveable stop in the path of core assemblies on the moving belt conveyor when the proximity sensor senses that a fastened core assembly has been moved from the pre-determined position, in combination with the other claimed limitations.

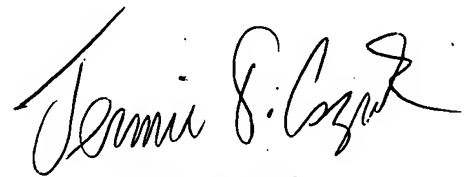
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermie Cozart whose telephone number is 571-272-4528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.
5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on 571-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



JERMIE E. COZART
PRIMARY EXAMINER

May 10, 2007